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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,147	11/27/2001	Mathias Monse	GOTZF 131	9930
2555	7590	11/17/2004	EXAMINER	
KREMBLAS, FOSTER, PHILLIPS & POLLOCK 7632 SLATE RIDGE BOULEVARD REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068			VU, VIET DUY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,147

Applicant(s)

MONSE ET AL.

Examiner

Viet Vu

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/31/02 (preliminary Amendment).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) • | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. The current title is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed

Non-Art Rejections:

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claim language is vague and confusing and hence makes it difficult to clearly determine the scope of the claimed invention. Applicant is advised to revise the claims to more clearly define the claimed subject matters.

Art Rejections:

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the

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subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamakado et al, U.S. pat. Appl. Pub. No. 2002/0015177 in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

Per claims 1-6, Yamakado discloses a tandem printing system comprising:

a) a plurality printing devices (PR1-4, fig. 2) connected via a LAN (3, fig. 2) to at least one host computer (1, fig. 2) which distributing print data and commands to the printers (see fig. 2 and page 3, par. 36),

b) a printer drive processor resides within each printer for controlling printer operations including positions and speeds (see page 2, par. 34),

c) an interface controller resides within each printer for receiving print command and data from the host and for receiving control signals from a multi-link controller (2, fig. 1) via a bus (4, fig. 1) to control the printer in a master/slave mode for performing tandem printing where one printer operates in synch with the others (see page 3, par. 36).

Yamakado does not explicitly teach using specific type of LAN for connecting the printers. The use of ring-type network for connecting host and printers is well known in the art as admitted by the applicant (see page 1, par. 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize any conventional types of LAN including ring-type network for connecting the hosts and printers. The use of ring-type network would have been motivated because it would have enabled more efficient use of cabling.

Per claims 7-14, it is noted that Yamakado's multi-link controller (2) which functions as a print master is connected to the slave printers via star-like bus (4) for providing synchronous clock signals to the printers in tandem printing, i.e., master/slave printing mode (see page 3, par. 40).

Per claims 15-22, Yamakado teaches that the printers can operate as independent (master) printers in regular printing

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mode as well as slave printers in tandem printing mode when connected to the multi-link controller (see page 3, par. 38).

Per claims 23-30, Yamakado also teaches that the multi-link controller can be implemented as a separate master unit for controlling the printers via the master bus or be a part of the host unit (data distribution unit) that provides print commands and data to the printer via a LAN (see page 3, par. 36).

Conclusion:

7. The references cited by the examiner on PTO-892 but not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Viet Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-3977. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee, can be reached on 571-272-3964.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9600. The Group fax number is 703-872-9306.



VIET D. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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11/15/04